Legislation on Election Commissioner

1753. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government will bring in a comprehensive legislation or a Constitutional Amendment to codify the spirit of the Supreme Court judgement in the case of Election Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): No, Sir.

Paucity of orders with Mangalore Yard of MDL

1754. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mangalore Yard of the Mazagaon Dock Limited is on the verge of closure due to paucity of orders;

(b) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission which has been sustaining the Mangalore Yard's operations for the last few years, has not placed any order during the last year; and

(c) whether any revival plan is under consideration and whether Government will intervene and prevail upon ONGC to continue patronage to Mangalore Yard of MDL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) There has been a general paucing of orders in the Offshore Division of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) which is reflected also in shortage of work for the Mangalore Yard. The problem at the Mangalore Yard is compounded by the fact that its pipe coating facility has lost its competitive edge to some other pipe coating facilities which have sprung up nearer the offshore project sites.

(c) MDL is doing its best to secure orders for its Offshore Division. It stands a good chance of securing orders for three platforms, one in a competitive bid in conjunction with another company and two on a basis of assignment from ONGCL.

Taluka level Bio-Mass based power projects in Bihar

1755. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many Taluka-level Bio-mass based power projects have so far been installed in the State of Bihar, district-wise; and

(b) if so, by when the remaining Talukas in the State are likely to be provided with biomass-based power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No such project has so far been installed in the State of Bihar.

(b) The Central Government has announced a number of incentives for encouragement to renewable energy based power projects including those based on biomass. Projects have to be set up by entrepreneurs or the State Government, availing these incentives.

Wasteland in the North-Eastern region

1756. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made in North-Eastern States regarding availability of wasteland;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated for the reclamation of such wasteland, State-wise; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Wastelands Development Board has commissioned a study under the National Wastelands Identification Project through the National Remote Sensing Agency to know the exact details of wastelands. So far, 237 districts have been covered under this programme. However, no such detailed survey for the whole country has yet been carried out which will indicate the details of Wastelands in the North-Eastern States. According to Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD), an Non-Government Organisation, the total area of Wastelands State-wise is given at Statement-I (*See* below)

(c) Tree planting/afforestation and related activities are carried out over various categories of land, including wastelands, under Point No. 16 of the 20-Point Programme. These activities would include the various schemes of the Department of Wastelands Development viz.:

(i) Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme;

(ii) Technology Development, Extension and Training Scheme;

(iii) Grant-in-Aid Scheme;

(iv) Wastelands Development Task Force Scheme;

(v) Investment Promotional Scheme.

The funds allocated under this programme, State-wise, during the last three years are indicated at Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) The targets under 20-Point Programmme are fixed on year to year basis depending upon the availability of funds under the Central and State Plans. It would, thus not be possible to indicate any time frame for carrying out this work.

Statement-I

State-wise area of wastelands

(Million Hectares)

Sr. No.	State	Estimates of Wastelands
1.	Assam	1.73
2.	Manipur	1.44
3.	Meghalaya	1.92
4.	Nagaland	1.38
5.	Tripura	0.97
6.	Mizoram	N.A.
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	N.A.
	TOTAL	7.44

N.A.: Not Available.

Statement-II

Funds allocated, State-wise during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	State/Ut's	1992-93 Allocation	1993-94 Allocation	1994-95 Allocation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2510.52	3324.70	2579.47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	434.55	511.00	1324.00
3.	Assam	1520.00	1217.00	267.69
4.	Bihar	2112.46	3381.46	4715.60
5.	Goa	156.95	150.80	154.66

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	6713.93	6684.04	6881.12
7.	Haryana	4576.57	3777.40	3669.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4746.00	6063.13	NR
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1795.95	1108.02	NR
10.	Karnataka	6157.87	7548.06	11513.51
11.	Kerala	1215.00	695.05	330.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5512.96	7350.68	5800.98
13.	Maharashtra	7624.11	8936.45	9525.86
14.	Manipur	573.65	284.49	542.61
15.	Meghalaya	1164.07	1084.20	NR
16.	Mizoram	870.00	906.09	927.44
17.	Nagaland	155.38	150.11	744.00
18.	Orissa	4208.00	4069.50	978.35
19.	Punjab	1159.50	1672.70	908.35
20.	Rajasthan	9583.00	12550.44	14339.17
21.	Sikkim	383.87	364.82	NR
22.	Tamil Nadu	4640.70	5199.39	8868.00
23.	Tripura	1158.04	1163.63	861.67
24.	Uttar Pradesh	6790.16	9043.33	12983.49
25.	West Bengal	2880.00	2098.30	3057.27
26.	A&N Islands	116.25	114.85	127.50
27.	Chandigarh	30.00	170.00	45.00
28.	D & N Haveli	97.20	200.00	146.87
29.	Daman & Diu	13.00	13.00	22.50
30.	Delhi	281.00	197.00	193.00
31.	Lakshadweep	16.00	16.50	NR
32.	Pondicherry	91.33	131.00	92.00
	Total:	79288.02	90177.14	91599.21

N.R.—Not Reported.

Privatisation of HMT's Tractor Division

1757. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Report appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 29th July, 1995, under the caption "HMT sell-out to private sector";

(b) why no reserve price was fixed for a bid for the Tractor Division;

(c) why TRP is proposed to be sold for Rupees 130 crores for 51% equity share when its real value is more than Rupees 360 crores; and

(d) why Government are out to "Nationalise the losses and privatise the profits"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (*SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI*): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) HMT did not find it feasible to fix a reserve price for the bids as the offers would differ in terms of financial, technical and other inputs. The assessment of the business would have to be done by the bidders based on their perception on the value of assets and the future potential for the business.